THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):(a) No Sir. There would be no major shift in India's foreign policy. However, since 1997 there has been a greater focus on forging closer relationship with countries in Latin America. As part of this effort EAM visited Brazil in June, 2003, a first ever visit by Indian Foreign Minister to Brazil. During this visit, apart from its bilateral component, a trilateral meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India, Brazil and South Africa was held on June 6, 2003 at which it was decided to launch the India, brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum with the aim of further enhancing South-South cooperation. The nomenclature of this grouping is "IBSA Dialogue Forum" and not "Rainbow Cooperation".

(b) One of the main objectives of this Dialogue Forum is to make the views of the South more readily heard in various international forums such as the United Nations, World Trade Organisation, Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, etc. It is expected that the Dialogue would strengthen interests of the developing countries not only in the World Trade Organisation but also in the other forums where developing and developed countries interact with each other. The dialogue will be at the Foreign Minister level and will be supplemented by other ministerial meeting in areas like Science & Technology, Transportation, Civil Aviation, Defence, etc. A Summit Dialogue among the three countries is envisaged later this year. A Trilateral Joint Commission has been established to provide impetus to this trilateral cooperation in various fields. As an immediate project, a Food Assistance Programme has been set up at India's initiatives to combat hunger and famine in other countries. Through the Dialogue Forum the three countries are expected to make quick progress on their Preferential Trade Agreement/Free Trade Agreement negotiations and then move towards an ultimate free-trade area among themselves and among their regional groupings.

Confidence Building Measures by Pak President

3076. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan President, as a further Confidence Building Measures (CBM) towards resumption of dialogue with India, had offered in May this year to share intelligence with India to curb militancy; and

(b) if so, what was the precise offer and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) In response to a suggestion made by External Affairs Minister regarding a Joint Mechanism to share intelligence about the movement of terrorists in order to put an end to cross border infiltration, some Pakistani leaders had reacted negatively and characterized it as unworkable. President Musharraf in an interview to a Pakistani newspaper was reported to have stated on May 27, 2003, *inter alia,* that Pakistan would consider the idea when a specific proposal was made, but also added that Pakistan would also need see why and what type of intelligence it could share with India.

Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross border inflitration and terrorism, and its unwillingness to take any action against infiltrators, or the infrastructure of support to terrorism in Pakistan, does not infuse any confidence in Pakistan's sincerity to share relevant information. Contrary to facts, Pakistan continues to deny any involvement with terrorism. It has also not handed over any of the fugitives from Indian law presently in Pakistan, and about whom repeated requests have been made for apprehending and handing over to India.

US help in Field of Atomic Power Generation

3077. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any breakthrough has been achieved or is expected in negotiations with the US regarding the removal of constraints on the export from US of high tech dual use technologies for expansion of our Nuclear Energy Programme; and

(b) whether France has shown its willingness to enter into a cooperation agreement with India for peaceful uses of atomic energy *e.g.* in the field of power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):(a) Government is engaged in a dialogue with the United States to develop and expand civilian nuclear cooperation, after the United States lifted, in September, 2001, the sanctions imposed on India in May, 1998. There has been progress in these areas. There is now no regulatory prohibition on supply of U.S.